(c) The main shortfall in the production of nitrogenous fertilizers was in respect of the operating units of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) and the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd., (HFC), which are loss making companies and have been declared sick by the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Keeping in view the present health of the various units of these two companies, the shortfall could not have been made up by additional production in these units without substantial investment of funds in these units for their upgradation. This would have further pushed up their cost of production, much above the price at which urea was generally imported. Moreover, their enhanced production would not have been of the order of imports during the last three years.

In the case of phosphatic fertilizers, the imports would have been required in any case as the indigenous installed capacity is not enough to cater to the entire demand of the country. Moreover, the imported phosphatic fertilizers have been generally cheaper compared to the average cost of production in the country.

Alternative to fertilizer subsidy

1353. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the alternatives to fertilizer subsidy being worked out by Government as announced by the Prime Minister in Kakinada; and

(b) whether the proposed alternative will help the growth of fertilizer industry and supply of fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) No proposal with regard to any alternative to fertilizer subsidy is under consideration of the Government.

Withdrawal of fertilizers subsidy

1354. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to withdraw fertilizer subsidy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

उर्वरक की कम खपत

1355 **श्री आस मोहम्मद :**

श्री कनकसिंह मोहन सिंह मंगरोला :

क्या **रसायन और उर्वरक** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हमारे देश में उर्वरक की खपत दूसरे देशों में उर्वरक की खपत से बहुत कम है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने कारणों की समीक्षा करके इस संबंध में कोई उपाय निकाला है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?